

use of power, power theft and wastage of power in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to enact a new law for conservation of power; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (d) Government have taken or propose to take following steps towards efficient use of power & for tackling of theft of electricity :

(i) In order to promote conservation and efficient use of energy, Ministry of Power had constituted the National Energy Conservation Award in 1991. for industrial units who undertake exceptional initiatives in field of energy conservation.

(ii) Moreover, the Central Government is considering proposing an enactment for energy conservation. The main features of the proposed enactment would be to (a) lay down standards and norms for energy consumption for equipment and appliances used in production, supply and consumption of energy, (b) prescribe a scheme for energy labelling and energy audit, (c) provide for an agency to administer aforesaid functions.

(iii) "National Energy Conservation Day" is celebrated every year on 14th December to create awareness regarding energy conservation.

(iv) So far as theft of energy is concerned. Section 39 of Indian Electricity Act, 1910 was amended in 1986 to make theft of energy & cognizable offence, with deterrent punishment of upto 3 years imprisonment or fine of not less than Rs. 1000/- or both.

[English]

Metro Project

2548. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the Metro Project in Chennai is likely to be made fully operational;

(b) the total allocation made for the project;

(c) the funds released out of that so far;

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred on remaining work of project; and

(e) the reasons for delay in completing the project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) MRTS Phase-I from Madras Beach to Luz was sanctioned in 1983-84. Commercial services are already in operation between Madras Beach and Chepauk since 16.11.95. Works on the balance section are in advanced stage and services are likely to commence shortly. A sum of Rs 35 crore has been earmarked during the current year i.e 1997-98 and a balance of Rs 36.13 crore would be required next year to complete the residual work.

The Phase-II of Madras MRTS project from Luz to Vellacheri has been sanctioned in 1996-97 at a total cost of Rs 605.70 crore to be shared between Railways and Government of Tamil Nadu. The preliminary works have been taken in hand and project is likely to be completed in four years subject to availability of adequate funds. A sum of Rs 12 crore has been allotted in the current year (1997-98) and a balance of about Rs 132 crore would be required in the coming years for the Railways share to complete the work.

[Translation]

Setting up of Coach Factory in Bihar

2549. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Bihar to set up an integral Coach factory in Jamalpur/Muzzaffarpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the date on which the said proposal was received and the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas

2550. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Centrally sponsored schemes being implemented in the rural and tribal areas of Orissa for the development of women and children;

(b) the amount released by the Union Government to Orissa for such schemes during the last three years; and

(c) the achievements made under these schemes so far?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) A Statement is attached.